GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1981
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
ILLEGAL MINING
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illegal mining activities taking place near the 13th century heritage site in Bateshwara Temple in Morena, Madhya Prasdesh identified by the Archaeological Survey of India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to stop the illegal and unlicensed dynamite blasting for sandstone; and

(d) the annual budget for the maintenance of the 100 ancient temples in Bateshwara?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE(SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b) Eight cases of stone quarrying activities were identified by Archaeological Survey of India as detrimental to the centrally protected monuments i.e. Group of Temples, Bateshwara and Garhi Padhawali in Morena District, Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The District Administration of Morena has cancelled all the 08 licenses/ mining leases.A caveat has also been filed in the Hon'ble High Court.

(d) An amount of Rs.30.95 lakhs has been earmarked for the maintenance/repairs of the Bateshwara Group of Temples during the current financial year.